

CheckRisk releases risk platform downunder

UK-based investment risk consultancy, CheckRisk, has launched its Total Risk Monitoring System (TRMS) into Australia aimed at institutional investors.

TRMS is a modular system which allows investors to select the risk system modules they think will best suit their own investment frameworks while also addressing regulatory requirements.

It has been developed with the UK Universities of Bath and Bristol providing academic research, input and validation. It contains modules for portfolio risk monitoring system, risk adjusted asset model, fund manager risk monitoring and macro risk decomposition overlay.

The purpose of the modules is to provide a broad approach to risk monitoring. The system operates by alerting users to risk exposures on both a relative and absolute basis, alerts them to fund manager risk, identifies positional awareness relative to risk.

A statement from CheckRisk said the system will focus attention on key areas of investment risk in portfolios and assist in meeting regulatory and reporting requirements.

CheckRisk Global's chief executive in Australia, Denis Carroll⁰², said: "This is the final piece of the risk management puzzle and answers the questions for which superannuation funds have been seeking solutions.

"For example, we now have a module which employs a customisable reference portfolio built entirely from a risk basis which can be compared with investors' live portfolios. This enables them to question and test their own portfolio allocations and facilitates a better understanding of risk within their investment strategies." **FS**

COIN's updated software focuses on scaled advice

Financial planning software COIN has released its latest version, which upgrades its scaled advice capabilities following the complete integration with Provisio.

COIN, which is owned by Rubik Financial, aims at providing advisers with a comprehensive toolkit for both comprehensive and scaled advice enquiries.

"Advisers using COIN can now easily cater for scaled advice requests with the ability to generate a statement of advice in minutes," Rubik Financial managing director of Wealth Wayne Wilson said.

Provisio's optimized advice will cover retirement adequacy, super comparison, transition to retirement, contributions optimiser, investment choice within super and insurance.

The updated software also focuses on Future of Financial Advice (FoFA) compliance.

"COIN 4.2 will provide advisers with the flexibility and clarity required to manage FOFA, including enhanced fee disclosure," Wilson said.

"The aim is to make FOFA as painless as possible for advisers. There is greater flexibility around package arrangements, the ability to record a history of fee disclosures and enhancements to the layout." **FS**



01: **Matthew Johnson**
managing director,
Wealthtrac



02: **Denis Carroll**
chief executive
in Australia,
CheckRisk Global

Wealthtrac launches SMSF smartphone app

Alex Dunnin

Boutique platform group Wealthtrac has launched a mobile device application focused on self managed super that even facilitates fund establishment while mobile.

Wealthtrac managing director, Matthew Johnson⁰¹, said, "Our cloud-based SMSF platform brings together all SMSF administration and reporting needs into one centralised hub."

He said the app contains SMSF news, access to SMSF education documents and will allow trustees to find their nearest adviser. Users will meanwhile be able to set up a SMSF.

"We believe this is the first time an SMSF has allowed for this level of functionality," said Johnson.

He added that he believes the ability to focus on delivering investment and strategic advice will be what defines the SMSF advice industry in the future.

"We believe what will set qualified advisers apart from the spruikers is education and the ability to deliver advice on complex areas such as estate planning, contribution caps, related party transactions and other trustee responsibilities," said Johnson.

To use the services available through the app costs \$140 per month and there are no asset based fees.

"There are no fees based on the number of investments, and we don't charge extra to start a pension or commute funds," said Johnson. **FS**



The numbers

1m

Number of people with a SMSF.

BlackRock creates global real estate investment platform

Laura Millan

BlackRock has created an international real estate investment platform after acquiring MGPA, a private equity real estate investment company in Asia-Pacific and Europe.

The acquisition assembles a combined \$23.5 billion global real estate into an investment platform which serves a client base of approximately 700 investors.

The combined platform of over 400 on-the-ground real estate professionals in 18 offices across 13 countries will operate under the BlackRock name.

The business will offer investors access to the world's top six markets, which represent 75% of

the investable commercial real estate universe.

"We are committed to building out our regional alternative investment capabilities to meet the growing demand from our clients for real estate expertise," BlackRock chairman of Asia Pacific Mark McCombe said.

"Our combined investment teams and staff provide on-the-ground market coverage that will allow us to expand our activities across the real estate spectrum at a time when allocations to property as both a core allocation and an alternative investment are growing," BlackRock Real Estate Global Chief Investment Officer and former MGPA chief executive Simon Treacy said. **FS**

Midwinter adapts planner software to client profiles

Midwinter has updated its AdviceOS software to enable clients to access a customised portal with different content, calculators, themes and graphics

The software provider presented the updates to its cloud-based software at a roadshow in Sydney.

AdviceOS allows the use of different "client stories" based on client age or marital status

"Clients who are young singles under 30 will experience a different client portal experience to those clients that are young families under 30," Midwinter managing director Julian Plummer said.

"We believe that the 'client story' functionality will only increase the levels of client engagement within the advice process by making the accessible content by a client more appropriate to their situation or life stage."

A new standard statement of advice (SOA) has been rewritten to make it compliant with the Future of Financial Advice (FoFA) reforms and the best interest duty. The new SOA focuses on self-managed super funds (SMSFs), portfolio review, portfolio management and research.

AdviceOS has transitioned from a beta testing phase into a full release after over 300 advice practices tested the program since June 2013.

The Investment Trends May 2013 Planner Technology Report found that Midwinter's software currently holds a 7% of the market share but scores highest on user satisfaction. Rainmaker's 2013 Financial Planning Report meanwhile reveals Midwinter to have a 5% market reach. **FS**



The numbers

18,000

Number of financial planners operating in Australia, according to Rainmaker.